

SPLINTERS

-Ryan Parsons-

There has been no shortage of “honey do’s” recently while we adapt our lives to two new humans. This has included routines, and at times, it has required power tools to adapt our domicile for their needs. My most recent project was to renovate a closet downstairs. It was refreshing to break out the miter saw and to cut the wood used to construct 6 new shelves.

A couple of days later, I got to looking at my left palm. I was surprised to see a sore and a discolored place. Come to find out, I had a nice little splinter embedded in my hand. It was lodged in there so deeply that my body had started to form some puss around the foreign object, and a small infection appeared to be setting in. Immediately, the nurse in me came alive. After a few minutes with a needle and tweezers, I was back to normal.

Sin is the same way. If we aren’t careful, it can get embedded into our lives. If we let it linger, it becomes toxic to our entire life producing a dangerous infection. The Hebrew writer suggests that it can trip us up causing us to fail in our goal of walking/running in Christ (Hebrews 12:1).

Sometimes, we see little splinters of sin, and we think, “That’s no big deal!” However, Jesus was pretty hostile towards sin. To him, it was no trivial matter.

Matthew 5:29-30

If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into hell.

In order to remain spiritually healthy we have to get rid of sin!

Hebrews 12:1

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,

How do we do that? Jesus used a sharp instrument (Hebrews 4:12) when tempted in the wilderness.

Matthew 4

10 Then Jesus said to him, “Be gone, Satan! For it is written,

“You shall worship the Lord your God
and him only shall you serve.”

11 Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to him.

Perhaps the Word of God is the needle and tweezers we need to get rid of the temptation and sin in our lives.

Keep studying and watch out for splinters!